

01 United States Department of Commerce
02 Patent and Trademark Office
03 Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
04 Washington, D.C. 20231
05 July 8, 2003

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09
10 Michael J. Malone
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13 215 639 2175

14
15 Sir:

16 **A Petition To Make Special**

17 A Petition to make special is made for the utility patent application entitled

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19 **Serial Hard Disk Drive Selector**

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21 The application being filed July 8, 2003. Petition accompanies the utility patent
22
23 application named. Petition is made as allowed by 37 CFR 1.102, Advancement of
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25 Examination, and as required in MPEP 708.2 part VIII in compliance with items A
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27 ,B, C, D, & E of part VIII.

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29 Item A) per 37CFR 1.17(h) a fee to make special is included and is listed on the Fee
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31 Transmittal Form SB/17 accompanying this petition and its related utility patent
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33 application.

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35 Item B) This petition is made for the utility patent application entitled Serial Hard
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37 Disk Drive Selector. There is one claim in this utility patent and that one claim is
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39 aimed at a single invention. With this petition, election without traverse is made.

Item C) A thorough pre-examination search was made. The fields of search were: U.S. Patent Classes 360/61, 63, 64, 69, 137 and 711/112; International Patent Classes G 06 F 13/00 and G 11 B 05/02.

Further references included:

- 1) Upgrading and Repairing PC's
Scott Mueller
Academic Edition, 14th edition
ISBN 078972927X
- 2) The W. L. Rosch Hardware Bible
Winn L. Rosch
6th Edition, Feb. 2003
ISBN 0789728591

Item D) Only one reference is deemed closely related to this utility patent application and petition to make special. It is U.S. Patent No.6,480,350 B1, issued to Malone, Nov, 12, 2002.

Item E) In U.S. No. 6,480,350 B1, Malone discloses a hard disk drive selector. Malone's invention is a three component, multi-pole, multi-throw, switching device that resides permanently within a personal computer system. The hard disk drive selector permits the rapid and easy replacement of one permanently mounted physical parallel hard disk drive occupying a single logical position within a computer system with another permanently mounted parallel hard disk drive within the same computer system. Malone's Hard Disk Drive Selector is configurable and can be used to choose any one parallel hard disk drive for use from a plurality of available parallel hard disk drives permanently mounted within the computer system.

When Malone's invention is used, a particular setting is chosen while the

computer system is off. When the computer system is turned on, booted, the selected parallel hard disk drive is used for that entire computer use session. If another parallel hard disk is to be used, the computer system is turned off. When the computer system is turned off, the other parallel hard disk drive is selected utilizing Malone's Hard Disk Drive Selector and the computer is booted with the newly selected parallel hard disk drive in use for this new computer use session.

13 Malone's invention, the Hard Disk Drive Selector resides between the
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15 parallel hard disk drive host adapter and its parallel hard disk drive and within the
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17 hard disk drive's peripheral bus system. The Hard Disk Drive Selector also resides
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19 between the system's power supply and parallel hard disk drive.

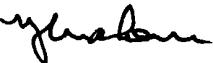
Malone's invention specifically aims at controlling the bus of a peripheral hard disk drive that has four distinct segments. The four segments are the power delivery bus components, the command delivery bus components, the address delivery bus components, and the data delivery bus components. When operated, Malone's invention opens the power, command, and address delivery components to any and all not-selected hard disk drives controlled by the invention and closes the power, command, and address components to the selected hard disk drive controlled by the invention. With this invention, the data delivery components of the peripheral hard disk drive bus are left closed to all hard disk drives controlled by the invention at all times; to both selected and not-selected hard disk drives controlled by the invention.

Malone's invention is specific to the control of and selection and not-

01 selection of parallel type hard disk drives.
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03 Malone's invention, The Hard Disk Drive Selector, offers unprecedented
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05 versatility and protection in the use and storage of parallel hard disk drives and in the
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07 protection of software and data stored on the drives, but it fails to work with serial
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09 hard disk drives and to extend this protection to serial hard disk drives.
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11 The Utility Patent Application that this petition seeks to make special is
12 specifically for Serial Hard Disk Drive Selector. That this is a novel method and
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14 technique is shown by the fact that serial hard disk drives communicate command,
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16 address, and data over the same conductors of the computer bus, unlike the parallel
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18 bus. In the serial communication scheme, leaving data traces closed at all times
19 means leaving all traces closed at all times. A different method than described in
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21 U.S. Patent No. 6,480,350 B1 is needed.
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26 Thank you very much.
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29 Sincerely yours,
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32 Michael J. Malone
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